



3739 #7

PATENT Attorney Docket No. HOOV 120

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:
Michael D. Hooven
Serial No.: 10/015,476
Filed: December 13, 2001
Examiner:
Art Unit: 3739
For: SUB-XYPHOID METHOD FOR ABLATING
CARDIAC TISSUE

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)
) Date: May 17, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. A copy of each of the references was submitted to the Patent Office or was cited by the Examiner in the parent application, Serial No. 09/747,609 filed December 22, 2000, which is being relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 (35 C.F.R. §1.98(d)).

No inference should be drawn that the attached list sets forth a comprehensive investigation of the prior art, that any or all are pertinent to the invention, or that any apparatus disclosed is

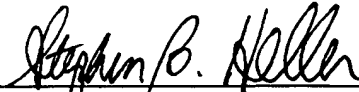
equivalent to the subject invention.

The citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is required. If it is determined that a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen B. Heller
Attorney of Record
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	3,630,207	12/28/71	Kahn et al	128	350	08/08/69
	3,901,242	08/26/75	Storz	128	303	05/30/74
	4,043,342	08/23/77	Morrison, Jr.	128	303	02/26/76
	4,353,371	10/12/82	Cosman	128	303	09/24/80
	4,492,231	01/08/85	Auth	128	303	09/17/82
	4,590,934	05/27/86	Malis et al	128	303	05/18/83
	4,706,667	11/17/87	Roos	128	303	07/28/86
	4,732,149	03/22/88	Sutter	128	303	01/21/87
	4,802,475	02/07/89	Weshahy	128	303	06/22/87
	4,940,064	07/10/90	Desai	128	784	06/30/87
	5,013,312	05/07/91	Parins et al	606	37	03/19/90
	5,083,565	01/28/92	Parins	128	642	08/03/90
	5,085,657	02/04/92	Ben-Simhon	606	42	10/09/90
	5,087,243	02/11/92	Avitall	604	20	06/18/90
	5,116,332	05/26/92	Lottick	606	42	02/08/92
	5,147,355	09/15/92	Friedman	606	23	09/23/88
	5,190,541	03/02/93	Abele et al	606	46	10/17/90
	5,207,691	05/04/93	Nardella	606	142	11/01/91

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DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
EP 0 765 639	04/02/97	Ethicon Endo-Surgery Inc			09/27/96
WO 98/17187	04/30/98	Heartport, Inc.			10/22/97
WO 98/53750	12/03/98	Sports Link, Inc.			05/28/98

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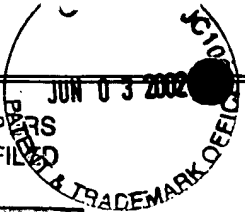
English abstract re Japanese Patent Application No. JP 1996000275351, published April 28, 1997.

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*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	5,217,460	06/08/93	Knopfler	606	52	03/22/91
	5,231,995	08/03/93	Desai	128	784	09/30/92
	5,242,441	09/07/93	Avitall	606	41	02/24/92
	5,250,047	10/05/93	Rydell	606	48	10/21/91
	5,250,075	10/05/93	Badie	606	207	09/02/92
	5,263,493	11/23/93	Avitall	607	122	07/07/92
	5,269,326	12/14/93	Verrier	128	642	10/24/91
	5,269,780	12/14/93	Roos	606	42	09/27/91
	5,281,215	01/25/94	Milder	606	20	06/15/92
	5,281,216	01/25/94	Klicek	606	42	03/31/92
	5,293,869	03/15/94	Edwards et al	128	642	09/25/92
	5,318,589	06/07/94	Lichtman	606	205	04/15/92
	5,327,905	07/12/94	Avitall	128	72	12/11/92
	5,354,297	10/11/94	Avitall	606	45	07/07/92
	5,357,956	10/25/94	Nardella	128	642	11/13/92
	5,397,339	03/14/95	Desai	607	116	05/07/93
	5,403,312	04/04/95	Yates et al	606	50	07/22/93
	5,423,807	06/13/95	Milder	606	20	01/24/94

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DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
WO 99/02096	01/21/99	The Regents of the Univ. of California			07/08/98
WO 99/04696	02/04/99	Cardiac CRC Nominees Pty., Ltd.			07/24/98
WO 99/12487	03/18/99	Valleylab			09/04/98

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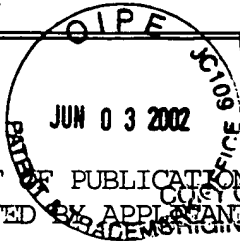
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	5,429,131	07/04/95	Scheinman et al	128	642	02/25/94
	5,429,636	07/04/95	Shikhman et al	606	41	10/08/93
	5,438,302	08/01/95	Goble	331	167	07/11/94
	5,441,483	08/15/95	Avitall	604	95	11/08/93
	5,443,463	08/22/95	Stern et al	606	51	08/16/93
	5,445,638	08/29/95	Rydell et al	606	51	07/16/93
	5,449,355	09/12/95	Rhum et al	606	41	11/24/93
	5,451,223	09/19/95	Ben-Simhon	606	42	07/26/94
	5,454,370	10/03/95	Avitall	128	642	12/03/93
	5,465,716	11/14/95	Avitall	128	642	11/22/93
	5,472,441	12/05/95	Edwards et al	606	41	03/11/94
	5,478,309	12/26/95	Sweezer et al	604	4	05/27/94
	5,480,409	01/02/96	Riza	606	205	05/10/94
	5,487,385	01/30/96	Avitall	128	642	12/03/93
	5,496,312	03/05/96	Klicek	606	34	10/07/93
	5,500,011	03/19/96	Desai	607	116	11/04/94
	5,531,744	07/02/96	Nardella et al	606	48	12/01/94
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	5,555,883	09/17/96	Avitall	128	642	01/30/95

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WO 99/56486	11/04/99	Nokia Telecommunications OY			04/28/99
WO 99/56644	11/11/99	Cardiac Pacemakers, Inc.			04/28/99
WO 99/56648	11/11/99	Cardiac Pacemakers, Inc.			04/28/99

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	5,562,721	10/08/96	Marchlinski et al	607	99	05/10/95
	5,564,440	10/15/96	Swartz et al	128	898	11/03/94
	5,582,609	12/10/96	Swanson et al	606	39	08/08/94
	5,587,723	12/24/96	Otake et al	345	118	04/13/94
	5,595,183	01/21/97	Swanson et al	128	697	02/17/95
	5,599,350	02/04/97	Schulze et al	606	51	04/03/95
	5,611,813	03/18/97	Lichtman	606	205	04/28/95
	5,620,459	04/15/97	Lichtman	606	205	04/25/95
	5,642,736	07/01/97	Avitall	128	772	08/19/96
	5,655,219	08/05/97	Jusa et al	370	338	03/04/94
	5,672,174	09/30/97	Gough et al	606	41	01/16/96
	5,674,220	10/07/97	Fox et al	606	51	09/29/95
	5,683,384	11/04/97	Gough et al	606	41	08/15/95
	5,687,737	11/18/97	Branham et al	128	710	10/31/94
	5,688,270	11/18/97	Yates et al	606	51	01/18/95
	5,690,611	11/25/97	Swartz et al	604	53	11/14/94
	5,693,051	12/02/97	Schulze et al	606	51	04/12/95
	5,697,925	12/16/97	Taylor	606	34	06/09/95

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WO 97/32525	09/12/97	Cardiac Pathways Corp.			11/04/96
WO 99/44519	09/10/99	Atrionix, Inc.			03/02/99
WO 99/59486	11/25/99	New England Medical Ctr.			05/20/99
WO 00/21449	04/20/00	Levin, J.M.			10/09/98

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	5,702,359	12/30/97	Hofmann et al	604	20	06/06/95
	5,702,390	12/30/97	Austin et al	606	48	03/12/96
	5,702,438	12/30/97	Avitall	607	122	06/08/95
	5,709,680	01/20/98	Yates et al	606	50	12/22/94
	5,718,703	02/17/98	Chin	606	49	03/14/95
	5,722,403	03/03/98	McGee et al	128	642	10/28/96
	5,725,512	03/10/98	Swartz et al	604	280	02/08/96
	5,728,143	03/17/98	Gough et al	607	101	02/14/96
	5,730,127	03/24/98	Avitall	128	642	01/29/96
	5,730,704	03/24/98	Avitall	600	374	05/06/96
	5,733,280	03/31/98	Avitall	606	23	11/15/95
	5,735,847	04/07/98	Gough et al	606	45	12/19/95
	5,735,849	04/07/98	Baden et al	606	51	11/07/96
	5,740,808	04/21/98	Panescu et al	128	662	10/28/96
	5,755,664	05/26/98	Rubenstein	600	377	07/11/96
	5,755,717	05/26/98	Yates et al	606	51	01/16/96
	5,759,158	06/02/98	Swanson	600	508	08/19/97
	5,782,827	07/21/98	Gough et al	606	41	12/19/95

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WO 00/27310 (A2 & A3)	05/18/00	St. Jude Medical Cardiovascular Group Inc			11/05/99
WO 00/27311	05/18/00	St. Jude Medical Cardiovascular Group Inc			11/05/99

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	5,785,706	07/28/98	Bednarek	606	41	11/18/96
	H 1745	08/04/98	Paraschac	606	51	09/29/95
	5,797,906	08/25/98	Rhum et al	606	48	04/28/95
	5,797,960	08/25/98	Stevens et al	606	213	04/20/95
	5,800,484	09/01/98	Gough et al	607	104	09/03/96
	5,807,393	09/15/98	Williamson, IV et al	606	32	05/08/95
	5,807,395	09/15/98	Mulier et al	606	41	04/22/97
	5,810,804	09/22/98	Gough et al	606	41	03/15/96
	5,810,805	09/22/98	Sutcu et al	606	45	02/09/96
	5,810,811	09/22/98	Yates et al	606	50	04/04/97
	5,817,091	10/06/98	Nardella et al	606	38	05/20/97
	5,823,955	10/20/98	Kuck et al	600	374	11/20/95
	5,823,956	10/20/98	Roth et al	600	374	05/07/96
	5,829,447	11/03/98	Stevens et al	128	898	05/07/96
	5,833,690	11/10/98	Yates et al	606	52	04/04/97
	5,833,703	11/10/98	Manushakian	606	174	03/14/97
	5,842,984	12/01/98	Avitall	600	374	11/12/97

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WO 00/27313	05/18/00	St. Jude Medical Cardiovascular Group Inc			11/05/99
WO 00/42931	07/27/00	Cryocath Technologies			01/25/00

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	5,843,122	12/01/98	Riza	606	207	09/30/97
	5,846,238	12/08/98	Jackson et al	606	41	04/08/96
	5,849,011	12/15/98	Jones et al	606	47	06/18/96
	5,849,020	12/15/98	Long et al	606	167	06/30/97
	5,853,411	12/29/98	Whayne et al	606	41	04/08/96
	5,855,614	01/05/99	Stevens et al	623	11	05/07/96
	5,860,975	01/19/99	Goble et al	606	45	12/15/95
	5,863,290	01/26/99	Gough et al	606	41	12/19/95
	5,863,291	01/26/99	Schaer	606	41	04/08/96
	5,868,737	02/09/99	Taylor et al	606	34	05/06/97
	5,871,483	02/16/99	Jackson et al	606	41	04/08/96
	5,873,896	02/23/99	Ideker	607	14	05/27/97
	5,876,400	03/02/99	Songer	606	45	01/13/97
	5,876,401	03/02/99	Schulze et al	606	51	04/14/97
	5,891,135	04/06/99	Jackson et al	606	41	04/08/96
	5,891,136	04/06/99	McGee et al	606	41	04/08/96
	5,893,863	04/13/99	Yoon	606	170	05/01/97
	5,899,898	05/04/99	Arless et al	606	22	02/27/97
	5,899,899	05/04/99	Arless et al	606	22	07/11/97

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WO 00/42932	07/27/00	Cryocath Technologies			01/25/99
WO 00/42933	07/27/00	Cryocath Technologies			01/25/99
WO 00/42934	07/27/00	Daig Corporation			01/07/00

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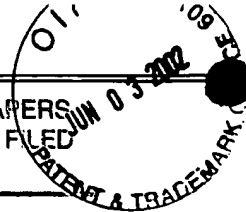
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	5,902,289	05/11/99	Swartz et al	604	281	10/14/97
	5,910,129	06/08/99	Koblisch et al	604	95	10/30/97
	5,913,855	06/22/99	Gough et al	606	41	11/03/97
	5,921,924	07/13/99	Avitall	600	374	11/12/97
	5,925,038	07/20/99	Panescu et al	606	41	04/08/96
	5,925,042	07/20/99	Gough et al	606	41	11/03/97
	5,924,424	07/20/99	Stevens et al	128	898	10/14/97
	5,928,229	07/27/99	Gough et al	606	41	10/30/97
	5,931,836	08/03/99	Hatta et al	606	38	07/21/97
	5,935,126	08/10/99	Riza	606	51	09/30/97
	5,938,660	08/17/99	Swartz et al	606	45	06/27/97
	5,941,251	08/24/99	Panescu et al	128	899	11/08/96
	5,941,845	08/24/99	Tu et al	604	53	08/05/97
	5,944,718	08/31/99	Austin et al	606	48	07/31/97
	5,947,938	09/07/99	Swartz et al	604	280	01/10/97
	5,951,552	09/14/99	Long et al	606	46	06/30/97
	5,951,547	09/14/99	Gough et al	606	41	11/03/97
	5,954,665	09/21/99	Ben-Haim	600	515	10/23/97
	5,961,514	10/05/99	Long et al	606	41	06/18/97
	5,967,976	10/19/99	Larsen	600	374	11/08/96
	5,971,983	10/26/99	Lesh	606	41	05/09/97
	5,972,026	10/26/99	Laufer et al	607	96	01/07/98

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COPY OF PAPER ORIGINALLY FILED LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT	<u>Attorney Docket No.</u> HOOV 120	<u>Serial No.</u> 10/015,476
	<u>Applicant</u> Michael D. HOOVEN	
	<u>Filing Date</u> December 13, 2001	<u>Group</u> 3739

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	5,980,516	11/09/99	Mulier et al	606	41	03/09/98
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	5,984,281	11/16/99	Hacker et al	261	71	12/08/97
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	6,030,403	02/29/00	Long et al	606	185	03/18/99
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OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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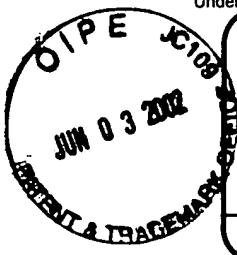
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complet if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/015,476
				Filing Date	December 13, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Michael D. Hooven
				Group Art Unit	3739
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	10	of	12	Attorney Docket Number	HOOV 120

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	1	1,127,948		R. H. Wappler	02/09/1915	
	2	5,009,661		Michelson	04/23/1991	
	3	5,044,947		Sachdeva et al.	09/03/1991	
	4	5,242,458		Bendel et al.	09/07/1993	
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	19	EP	0 450 608	A1	Richard Wolf GmbH	10/09/1991		
	20	PCT	WO 93/25267	A1	Mir A. Imran	12/23/1993		
	21	PCT	WO 97/10764	A1	Valleylab, Inc.	03/27/1997		
	22	PCT	WO 92/05828	A1	Raychem Corporation	04/16/1992		
	23	DE	43 13 903	C1	Olympus Winter & Ibe GmbH	09/15/1994		

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/015,476
		Filing Date	December 13, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Michael D. Hooven
		Group Art Unit	3739
		Examiner Name	
		Attorney Docket Number	HOOV 120
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	24	YOSHIO KOSAKAI, M.D., ET AL., "Cox Maze Procedure for Chronic Atrial Fibrillation Associated with Mitral Valve Disease," THE JOURNAL OF THORACIC AND CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY, 1994; Vol. 108, No. 6, pp. 1049-1055.	
	25	Ki-Bong Kim, M.D., ET AL., Abstract "The Cox-Maze III Procedure for Atrial Fibrillation Associated with Rheumatic Mitral Valve Disease," THE ANNALS OF THORACIC SURGERY, 2000; pp. 1-5.	
	26	HIROSHI NAKAGAWA, ET AL., Abstract, "Creation of Long Linear Transmural Radiofrequency Lesions in Atrium Using a Novel Spiral Ribbon - Saline Irrigated Electrode Catheter," JOURNAL OF AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY, February, 1996.	
	27	TAJIRO SUEDA, ET AL., "Efficacy of a Simple Left Atrial Procudure for Chronic Atrial Procedure for Chronic Atrial Fibrillation in Mitral Valve Operations," THE ANNALS OF THORACIC SURGERY, 1997, Vol. 63, pp. 1070-1073.	
	28	Re: DR. ADAM E. SALTMAN, New Program in Surgical Electrophysiology Established," Interet Website of Departmental News, Dept. of Surgery, University Hospital & Medical Center, Stony Brook State University of New York (www.informatics.synysb.edu/surgery/electro-news.html); 2000, pp. 1-2.	
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	33	LAURAN NEERGAARD, "Slicing a Heart to Make It Beat," Article from THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, March 26, 1998 Website (www.nando.com/newsroom/ntn/health/032698/health24_22737_body.html).	

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Sheet	12	of	12

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	34	YOSHITO INOUE, ET AL., "Video Assisted Thoracoscopic and Cardioscopic Radiofrequency Maze Ablation," ASAIO JOURNAL, 1997, pp. 334-337.	
	35	YOSHITO INOUE, ET AL., Abstract, "Video Assisted Thoracoscopic and Cardioscopic Radiofrequency Maze Ablation," ASAIO JOURNAL, 1997.	
	36	MARY O. PALAZZO, RN, MS, CCRN, "What You Need To Know - a-fib 101," from the ATRIAL FIBRILLATION PAGE Website (www.members.aol.com/mazern/afib101.htm) June 5, 2000.	
	37	MARY O. PALAZZO, RN, MS, CCRN, "What You Need To Know - maze FAQ," from the ATRIAL FIBRILLATION PAGE Website (www.members.aol.com/mazern/mazefaq.htm) November 25, 1999.	
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	39	STUART P. THOMAS, ET AL., "Mechanism, Localization and Cure of Atrial Arrhythmias Occurring After a New Intraoperative Endocardial Radiofrequency Ablation Procedure for Atrial Fibrillation," JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY, 2000, Vol. 35, No. 2, pp. 442-450.	
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	42	TAIJIRO SUEDA, ET AL., "Simple Left Atrial Procedure for Chronic Atrial Fibrillation Associated with Mitral Valve Disease," THE ANNALS OF THORACIC SURGERY, 1996;62:1796-1800.	

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